

RESOURCE: DOCUMENTARY

'WILD AUSTRALIA – AFTER THE FIRES'

Grace Larobina, The Hills Grammar School

Source: Shutterstock

The documentary on ABC iView *Wild Australia – After the Fires* is an excellent teaching resource that can be used across Stages 5 – 6 reflecting the NSW Geography Syllabus. In Year 12 Geography, the documentary has a place in the Syllabus topic Ecosystems at Risk exploring many themes including resilience, dynamic equilibrium, and breaking points in the functioning of ecosystems. Including a variety of ecosystems management strategies. Food chains and food webs are also a feature where the impacts of the bushfires are demonstrated and the co-dependency of flora and fauna.

Used as an introduction to Environmental Change and Management in Stage 5 the documentary shows the above. There is also a great story of hope and it is magnificent to see how the natural environment has shown resilience. The wildlife has been in recovery and the great lengths that expert scientists in ecology and nature have gone to ensure some of the species are accounted for and rescued.

Students can be active and informed citizens and realise the impacts of humanity on our natural environments and consider their own future actions. The important work of local volunteers is commended in the documentary and demonstrate the collective

need to protect. The CC was an added feature as it gave the students a visual and can be used as a literacy tool. The documentary comes with a **warning** as some of the images can be distressing of injured and dead wildlife hence its PG Rating, so this will need to have teacher discretion and some schools may need parental / guardian permission to use. The narration is very clear and at a great learning pace for students, the language is technical but very accessible for students across a range of literacy abilities.

For further information about the following activities used in the Year 10 Unit of Inquiry, Environmental Change and Management, refer to Making Thinking Visible Ron Ritchhart et al



Wild Australia – After the Fires

'Charting the recovery of wildlife in the aftermath of Australia's catastrophic bushfires through stories of hope and resilience. Narrated by Hugo Weaving, the film provides an urgent message to safeguard our environment.'

Documentary ABC iView (58 Minutes)
Published January 2021 Available until 31st March 2021.

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE & MANAGEMENT

BEFORE VIEWING

What do you **SEE - THINK - WONDER** about when you see the following image from the ABC iView documentary?



Source: ABC iView Wild Australia - After the Fires 2021

SEE	THINK	WONDER

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AFTER VIEWING

PART 1. THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Explain what ecosystems need to function.

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B. Describe **ONE** way that ecosystems can provide protection from fires.

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C. What **natural services** do ecosystems provide? e.g., Think of the Lyre Bird in the documentary.

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PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

A. Describe how natural environments changed during the Australian Black Summer Bushfires 2019-2020.

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B. THINK- PAIR- SHARE

THINK	PAIR	SHARE
<p>Describe how the natural environment has shown <i>resilience</i> to the catastrophic change caused by the Australian Black Summer Bushfires.</p>		

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PART 3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Describe **TWO** environmental management strategies that you observed in the documentary that assisted in the management and protection of the natural environment after the catastrophic fires.

Consider the scale of the management strategy; Local, State, National or Global

STRATEGY	CONNECT What do you know about the management strategy?	EXTEND What have you found out after your research about the management strategy?	CHALLENGE What challenges do you see with the management strategy?
1.			
2.			